

Rivers Coalition

Meeting Minutes

Date: April 30th, 2015

Called to Order: 11:00am

Attendance: Mark Perry, Gayle Ryan, Paul Gray, Jill Pinkham, David Wischaupt, Richard Erth, Mike Conner, Mike Littell, Dennis Killila, Joanne Swann, Karl Wickstrom, Charles Grande, Todd Weissing, Rip Fisher, Frank Pryzbylski, George Jones, Darrell Brand, Shari Anker, Donna Teuscher, Annie Potts, John Fallon, Toby Overdorf, Darla Carter, Rip Fisher

Guest Chairman's Comments:

Guest Chairman Darrell Brand called the meeting to order. Applications for new membership were presented by the Miramar Property Owner's Association and the River Warriors. Motions were made to accept both, they were seconded and passed. Darrell announced our participation as beneficiaries of the 7th annual Lost River Fishing Tournament on Saturday May 23rd.

Special Presentation:

Karl Wickstrom introduced Kenny Hinkle and Mike Conner, who presented the video that featured them talking about the current toxic algae bloom on Lake Okeechobee. The presentation can be watched here: www.youtube.com/user/RiversCoalition. Following the presentation a motion was made for a resolution to be sent to our Federal agencies and Congressional Legislators, urging them to take action and address the concerns regarding the toxic algae bloom on Lake O. The motion was seconded and passed.

River Kidz of Martin County:

Nic Mader announced the River Kidz Second Edition Workbook is a continuing success and is being distributed to as many kids as possible throughout the county. Upcoming events include the Ohana Surf Shop River Kidz Surf Day and Paddlefest on May 25th.

Speakers Bureau:

Todd Weissing to new members how to arrange a Rivers Coalition speaker and gave a brief update on recent speaking engagements.

Martin County:

Dianne Hughes gave a comprehensive update on Martin County: Go to www.riverscoalition.org/reports-info/local-updates for the full report.

WRAC & Water Quality:

Mark Perry gave a comprehensive update on WRAC & local water quality. The water quality currently is barely satisfactory, the salinity is getting better but the water is still turbid. It can be watched here: www.youtube.com/user/RiversCoalition

Indian Riverkeeper:

Darrell Brand read Marty Baum's update, you can go to www.riverscoalition.org/reports-info/local-updates/ for the full report.

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Lake Okeechobee:

Paul Gray announced that the lake is currently 13.5ft high, as the releases have been getting bigger and the ideal level is 12.5ft by June 1st for the start of the wet season, while the maximum the lake can hold is 17.5ft. The salinity level is not currently alarming low, but we do have a big confluence of muck.